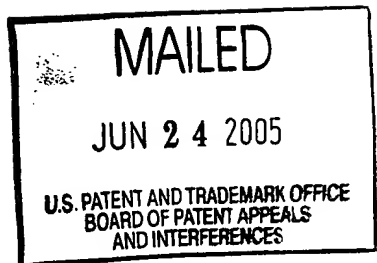


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte ROBERT BARRITZ, STEVEN BARRITZ, & PER HELLBERG

Application No. 09/726,166

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on June 22, 2005. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

Section 1208 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (Eighth Edition, August 2001) states:

APPEAL CONFERENCE

An appeal conference is mandatory in all cases in which an acceptable brief (MPEP § 1206) has been filed. . . .

. . . If the examiner's answer does not contain the appropriate indication that an appeal conference has been held (i.e., including the names of the conferees and identifying themselves as the conferees along with their initials), the Board should return the application directly to the appropriate Technology Center (TC) Director for corrective action. . . . This procedure applies to all examiner's answers received by the Board on or after November 1, 2000.

The Examiner's Answer mailed January 10, 2005 is deficient in that there is no evidence that an appeal conference has been held. In particular, one of the conferees, did not sign or initial the Examiner's Answer. Appropriate correction is required.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner:

1. for taking corrective action regarding the appeal conference; and

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2. for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

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